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SOURCE Bakinskiy Rabochiy.

AZERBAIDZHAN GAS INDUSTRY FAILS TO ACHIEVE CAPACITY PERFORMANCE

The gas department of the Azneft' Association completed its 1951 quota ahead of schedule as a result of carrying out organizational and technical measures for improving the gas section of petroleum trusts. During the past 2 years, more than 285 technical measures and enormous capital operations have been carried out. At 22 fields, wells have been hermetically sealed. In addition, 23 idle gas wells have been restored and put back into operation in the Kaganovichneft', Azizbekovneft', Ordzhonikidzeneft', and Kergezneft' trusts. More than 10 million rubles have been spent on capital repair of gas pipelines and basic equipment.

The carrying out of all these measures has made it possible to increase the gas output considerably and to improve the gas supply of the city of Baku. In 1951, more than 80 percent more gas was extracted by the vacuum method and 4 percent more by the airlift method than in 1949.

The construction and putting into operation of vacuum and compressor stations has assured the mechanization of the collection and transport of more than 75 percent of the daily gas output. In the Leninneft', Kirovneft', Molotovneft', and Kergezneft' trusts almost all the commercial gas is collected and transported by mechanical means.

Some of the tasks facing workers in the gas industry of the Azneft' Association are the introduction of modern techniques, reduction of gas losses during extraction and transport, and bringing about the expert utilization of gas in the combustion chamber of furnaces.

However, flaws exist in the operations of the Azerbaydzhan gas industry. In 1951, the Azizbekovneft' and the Buzovnyneft' trusts did not complete the state plan for gas extraction. Directors of the gas office did not bring about an efficient utilization of vacuum stations. The air content in gas extracted by the vacuum method by the Azizbekovneft' Trust amounted to 65 percent, indicating that nearly 2½ million cubic meters of useless air were being compressed and sent into the deposit each month. The gas offices of the

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Stalinnest', Ordzhonikidzenest', Leninest', and Kirovabadnest' trusts are also functioning poorly. The manager of the Kirovabadnest' Trust is not taking measures for the collection and transport of gas at oil fields and is not fulfilling his obligation to supply gas to the Kazan-Bulakh settlement, although the Azneft' Association issued an order to this effect in October 1950.

In the oil fields of Azerbaydzhan more than a million cubic meters of a gas-air mixture, containing up to 50 percent of gas, escape daily into the atmosphere. This amount would be more than enough to supply the requirements of the city of Baku. In addition, many industrial enterprises of Baku consume large quantities of liquid fuel which could be partially replaced by gas. It is entirely possible for the Azneft' Association to make definite amounts of gas available to the Azgaz Trust and even to increase these amounts by hermetically sealing more gas wells. However, the Azgaz Trust is not creating the proper conditions to receive this gas. Furthermore, interrayon gas pipelines and connections at gas distribution points, already in use for scores of years, are in a state of disrepair and are not being put in order. Despite an order of the Minister of the Petroleum Industry, issued in 1948, the question of reconstructing the interrayon pipelines has not yet been settled. In the last 7 years, the Azgaz Trust with the help of the Bakgaz Trust laid a total of only $4\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers of gas pipeline.

In the near future, new petroleum and gas pumping areas must be set up at a distance from Baku. This will necessitate the laying of new, large-diameter pipes.

To improve the supplying of gas to the population and industrial enterprises, the Azneft' Association and the Azgaz Trust must reconstruct and put in order the existing gas-distributing network, replace about 90,000 uneconomical gas fixtures, and organize strict regulation of gas consumption by installing 50,000 apartment gas meters.

Questions concerning the gas supply for the city are handled by three organizations: the Azneft' Association, and the Azgaz and Bakgaz trusts. No single center exists, a fact which greatly hampers efficiency of operations.

Petroleum and gas research in Azerbaydzhan is handled by the Institute of Petroleum of the Academy of Sciences Azerbaydzhan SSR, the AzNII (Azerbaydzhan Scientific Research Institute) for Petroleum Extraction, the AzNII for Petroleum Refining, and the Azerbaydzhan Industrial Institute. These organizations have a membership of several hundred scientific associates. However their research on the gas industry does not yet conform to present requirements.

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